

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

**[0248]** The invention relates to compositions and methods for the assessment of mucin gene expression. The invention also relates to compositions and methods for the identification of compounds useful in the treatment of various disorders caused by mucin overproduction. The invention provides novel *MUC5B* promoter sequences and reporter constructs comprising these *MUC5B* promoter sequences. The invention further provides methods for drug screening to identify compounds have the ability to inhibit *MUC5B* gene expression. Compounds having the ability to inhibit *MUC5B* gene expression find use in the treatment of diseases characterized by mucin hyperproduction.

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